## Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1, 2, 4-9, 12, 14, 15 and 18-20 have been amended. No new matter is introduced herein. Claim 3 has been cancelled. Of pending claims 1, 2 and 4-25, claims 22 and 23 have been withdrawn.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of claim 3. Claim 3 has been cancelled. Claims 8, 12, 14, 15 and 18-20 have been amended similarly to claim 1. Claim 1 has also been amended to clarify the language. No new matter is introduced herein. Support for the amendment can be found, for example, at page 46, line 6 - page 54, line 23 and Figs. 28 and 31 of the subject specification. Claims 2, 4-7 and 9 have been amended to correspond with respective claims 1 and 8.

On page 2, paragraph 1 of the Office Action, it is asserted that claims 22 and 23 have been cancelled. Applicants respectfully note that claims 22 and 23 have not been cancelled. Instead, claims 22 and 23 have been withdrawn.

Claims 1, 2, 5-21, 24 and 25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Nagaoka et al. (US 2002/0180579, referred to herein as Nagaoka). Claims 3 and 4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagaoka in view of Raschke et al. (US 6,653,933, referred to herein as Raschke). Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of claim 3. Claims 8, 12, 14, 15 and 18-20 have been amended similarly to claim 1. Claim 3 has been cancelled. Accordingly, Applicants address the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4-21, 24 and 25 with respect to Nagaoka and Raschke. It is respectfully submitted, however, that these claims are patentable over the cited art for the reasons set forth below.

Claim 1, as amended, includes features neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited art, namely:

> ... wherein the server <u>stores priority information showing which of the first operation information and the second operation information is given priority,</u> when the server receives the first operation information from the external apparatus, and the second operation information from the electronic apparatus, and the operation information updating part <u>updates the operation information control table, according to one of the first operation information and the</u>

second operation information that is given priority according to the
priority information. (Emphasis Added)

Claims 8, 12, 14, 15 and 18-20 include similar recitations.

Nagaoka discloses, in Fig. 1, a home network management system including home
network 6, terminal 1 and home network management facility 5. Terminal 1 controls electronic
device group 62 of home network 6 via facility 5. (Paragraphs [0082-0095].) As shown in
Figs. 1 and 2, home network 6 includes home server 61 having status information table
memory unit 614. As shown in Fig. 3, memory unit 614 stores a separate status table for each
electronic device. (Paragraphs [0105-0110].) As shown in Figs. 4 and 5, facility 5 includes
HTTP server 51 having status information memory unit 514. As shown in Fig. 7, memory unit
514 also stores status information for each electronic device and a home network ID for all of
the electronic devices. (Paragraphs [0115-0119] and paragraphs [0129-0132].)

However, as acknowledged by the Examiner on page 9 of the Office Action, Nagaoka
does not teach that the server stores priority information. Accordingly, Nagaoka cannot teach
that the server stores priority information showing which of first operation information and
second operation information is given priority and that an operation information updating part
updates an operation information control table according to one of the first operation
information and the second operation information according to the priority information, as
required by claim 1. Nagaoka is silent regarding these features. Thus, Nagaoka does not
include all of the features of claim 1.

Raschke discloses, in Fig. 1, a local area network including a plurality of nodes 104
coupled together and coupled to one or a plurality of devices 112. Nodes 104 communicate
with other nodes 104 in a peer-to-peer configuration. Each node 104 is able to address any
other node 104 directly without requiring intervention by a master controller or local server.
(Col. 3, line 57 - Col. 5, line 3.) As shown in Fig. 2, node 104 includes communication module
200 for sending/receiving messages and interpreter module 204 for determining what action to
take based on a message. (Col. 5, lines 26 - Col. 6, line 17.) Interpreter module 204 can use
thread context table 500, shown in Fig. 5, to manage events. (Col. 10, line 51 - Col. 11, line
26.) Thread context table 500 can include a priority flag to indicate whether a thread is high or
low priority. "The interpreter 204 will examine the priority flag to determine the order in which
to process an event primitive." (Col. 11, lines 27-64.)

However, Raschke does not teach a server that: 1) stores priority information showing which of first operation information and second operation information is given priority and 2) updates an operation information control table according to one of the first operation information and the second operation information according to the priority information, as required by claim 1 (emphasis added). According to Applicants' claim 1, the priority information enables the server to accept operation information from a plurality of external apparatus with different priority levels and allows the server to update the operation information control table by the operation information based on the priority level. Raschke is silent regarding these features. Raschke only teaches that, for a node, a priority flag is used to indicate whether a thread is high or low priority and to determine an order in which to process an event primitive. Thus, Raschke does not make up for the deficiencies of Nagaoka with respect to claim 1. Accordingly, allowance of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Claims 8, 12, 14, 15 and 18-20, although not identical to claim 1, includes features similar to claim 1 which are neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited art. Accordingly, allowance of claims 8, 12, 14, 15 and 18-20 is respectfully requested for at least the same reasons as claim 1.
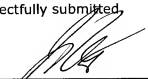
Claims 2, 4-7, 9-11, 13, 16, 17, 21, 24 and 25 include all of the features of respective claims 1, 8, 12, 15 and 20 from which they depend. Accordingly, these claims are also patentable over the cited art for at least the same reasons as their respective base claims.

In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the above-identified application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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